Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 08865 221545Z

13
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 OES-02 /024 W
---------- 048636
R 221306Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0166

UNCLAS KINSHASA 8865

H PASS CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP, CG
SUBJECT: CODEL SCHEUER

REF: KINSHASA 8863

1. PER REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FIRST OF NINE DRAFT MEMCONS OF SESSIONS ON POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS TO WHICH AN EMBASSY REPORTING OFFICER ACCOMPANIED THE CODEL.

2. MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
PARTICIPANTS: CONGRESSMAN JAMES H. SCHEUER
MRS. EMILY SCHEUER
MRS. POLLY GREENBURG
MS. HELEN COHEN
MR. ROB ROBERTSON - AID POPULATION PROGRAM
DIRECTOR FOR ZAIRE
MR. JERRY MITCHELL - EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER
TIME: 14:30, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1976
PLACE: EMBASSY CAR DURING RIDE IN FROM AIRPORT, KINSHASA

CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY REQUESTING MR. ROBERTSON TO BRIEF HIM ON ZAIRIAN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS.

MR. ROBERTSON EXPLAINED THAT IN ZAIRE ONE SPEAKS NOT OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS BUT OF THE "DESIRABLE BIRTHS" PROGRAM, "LES NAISSANCES DESIRABLES". THE CONCEPT RECEIVED ITS IMPETUS IN 1972 WHEN PRESIDENT MOBUTU GAVE HIS APPROVAL TO A POPULATION/HEALTH
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 08865 221545Z

PROGRAM WHICH WOULD HAVE AS ITS GOAL, AN AUTHENTIC ZAIRIAN RESPONSE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

TO ZAIRE'S POPULATION PROBLEMS. MR. ROBERTSON POINTED OUT THAT ZAIRE IS A NATION OF 20-25 MILLION INHABITANTS IN AN AREA AS LARGE AS THE UNITED STATES EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, AND WITH A POPULATION GROWTH RATE OF AN ESTIMATED 2.8 PERCENT. ZAIRE POPULATION DENSITY REMAINS QUITE LOW. HE NOTED THAT ZAIRE'S POPULATION PROBLEMS ARISE BECAUSE 25 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION LIVE IN URBAN AREAS, AND THAT THE NUMBER MIGRATING TO THE CITIES CONTINUES TO INCREASE. THUS THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES IS BEING OUTPACED BY THE POPULATION INCREASE, ESPECIALLY IN URBAN AREAS.

THE CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. GREENBERG POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN KENYA AND TANZANIA. MRS. GREENBERG DESCRIBED THE VARIETY OF SERVICES REQUIRED BY URBAN DWELLERS WHICH STRAINS NATIONAL RESOURCES. AS THE CAR PASSED THROUGH SECTIONS OF THE ZAIRIAN "CITE", MRS. GREENBERG INQUIRED ABOUT THE URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE; WERE THERE ADEQUATE SANITATION AND MEDICAL FACILITIES? WAS THERE A SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY, POTABLE WATER, AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AVAILABLE TO THE CITE' DWELLERS?

IN RESPONSE, MESSRS. ROBERTSON AND MITCHELL DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF ACCELERATED GROWTH IN THE CAPITAL CITY, POINTING OUT THAT THE NATIONAL AND URBAN AUTHORITIES WERE COGNIZANT OF THE PROBLEM. EFFORTS BY THE AUTHORITIES TO RETURN THE UNEMPLOYED TO THE COUNTRYSIDE, TO PROVIDE PRODUCE AT A REASONABLE PRICE, AND TO CONTROL THE EXPANSION OF THE CITE' WERE DESCRIBED.

BOTH CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER AND HIS PARTY DISCUSSED THE FACT THAT THE CRITICAL FACTOR IN POPULATION GROWTH IS NEITHER THE RATE OF GROWTH, NOR THE POPULATION DENSITY. IT IS RATHER THE CONCENTRATION OF THAT GROWTH IN THE URBAN AREAS AND THE ABILITY OF A NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THAT GROWTH. THE INTERRELATEDNESS OF HEALTH SERVICES, INFANT MORTALITY, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, AND FAMILY SIZE WAS STRESSED BY THE CONGRESSMAN.

THE DISCUSSION THEN CENTERED ON FRIDAY'S VISITS TO MAMA YEMO HOSPITAL, THE CHURCH (ECZ) FAMILY PLANNING CENTER AND THE GOVERNMENTS MCH CENTER AT BARUMBU. MR. ROBERTSON EXPLAINED THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF "LES NAISSANCES DESIRABLES" IN ZAIRE, EMPHASIZING THAT ONLY SINCE 1973 HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A PROGRAM IN ZAIRE. THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAS TWO MCH CLINICS, PARTIALLY FINANCED
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BY AID. MAMA YAMO HOSPITAL WITH OVER 40,000 PLUS DELIVERIES PER YEAR HAS ANOTHER SUCH CENTER. IN THE HOSPITAL CENTER TRAINERS TRAIN OTHER NURSES TO TEACH MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH PRACTICES IN THE INTERIOR AND IN THE OUTREACH CLINICS OPERATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. SOME 10,000 WOMEN HAVE THUS FAR ACCEPTED CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES DISPERSED BY THESE CLINICS. MR. ROBERTSON SAID THAT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLINICS DEMONSTRATED THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVOLVED IN ZAIRIAN PROGRAMS OF FAMILY

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

PLANNING AND MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH CARE. HE THEN POINTED OUT THAT TOMORROW'S VISITS WOULD ALLOW THE CODEL TO SEE WHAT IS NOW BEING DONE IN ZAIRE AND THE BASE UPON WHICH IT IS POSSIBLE TO EXPAND FUTURE PROGRAMS.

WITH THAT STATEMENT, THE CODEL ARRIVED AT THE HOTEL AND THE CONVERSATION ENDED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINSHA08865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760398-0010
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761025/aaaaaurs.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KINSHASA 8863
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2005 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL SCHEUER
TAGS: OREP, CG, (SCHEUER, JAMES H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006